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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	1 2
X	JAN 2 9 2008
CHANIE FRIEDMAN, on hehalf of herself and all others similarly situated,	USDC WP SDNY

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

	Plaintiff,	
-against-	08	CIV. 0971
AFNI, INC.		
	Defendant	JUDGE KADAG

Plaintiff, by and through her undersigned attorney, alleges upon knowledge as to herself and her own acts, and as to all other matters upon information and belief, brings this complaint against the above-named defendant and in support thereof alleges the following:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated for damages and declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the defendant's violation of §1692 et seq. of Title 15 of the United States Code, the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This is an action for violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692.
 - 3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Chanie Friedman (hereinafter "Friedman") is a resident of the State of New York, Rockland County. On or about December 5, 2007, plaintiff received an initial debt collection notice from defendant Afni, Inc.
- 5. Defendant Afni, Inc. is an Illinois Corporation engaged in the business of purchasing and collecting defaulted debt. Defendant regularly attempts to collect debt. Its Registered Agent is the C T Corporation Company, Inc., 111 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

6. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter "FRCP"), on behalf of herself and all Southern District of New York consumers who have received debt collection notices and/or letters concerning Bell Atlantic debt Afni, Inc. claims it owns which are in violation of the FDCPA, as of the date of plaintiff's complaint, and their successors in interest (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class is the defendant herein, and any person, firm, trust, corporation, or other entity related to or affiliated with the defendant, including, without limitation, persons who are officers, directors, employees, associates or partners of Afni, Inc.

- 7. This action is properly maintained as a class action. This Class satisfies all the requirements of Rule 23 for maintaining a class action.
- 8. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, hundreds of persons have received debt collection notices from the defendant which violate various provisions of the FDCPA.
- 9. There are questions of law and fact which are common to the Class and which predominate over questions affecting any individual Class member. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
- a. Whether the defendant violated various provisions of the FDCPA, including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 169e(10), 1692g(a)(4) and 1692g(a)(5).
 - b. Whether plaintiff and the Class have been injured by the defendant's conduct;
- c. Whether plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages and are entitled to restitution as a result of defendant's wrongdoing and, if so, what is the proper measure and appropriate statutory formula to be applied in determining such damages and restitution; and
 - d. Whether plaintiff and the Class are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief.
- 10. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and plaintiff has no interests adverse or antagonistic to the interests of other members of the Class.

- 11. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and has retained experienced counsel, competent in the prosecution of class action litigation.
- 12. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims herein asserted. Plaintiff anticipates that no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action.
- 13. A class action will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Class treatment also will permit the adjudication of relatively small claims by many Class members who could not otherwise afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a class action the Class members will continue to suffer losses of statutorily protected rights as well as monetary damages and if defendant's conduct will proceed without remedy it will continue to reap and retain the proceeds of its ill-gotten gains.
- 14. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 15. On or about December 5, 2007, defendant did send to the plaintiff an initial collection letter. Copy of said letter is annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**.
 - 16. The December 5, 2007 collection letter stated that Afni, Inc. acquired the Bell Atlantic at issue.
 - 17. On December 19, 2007, plaintiff notified AFNI, Inc. that the consumer disputed the assertion that Afni, Inc. acquired the Bell Atlantic account at issue and demanded that both verification of the debt and the address of the original creditor be sent to the consumer. Exhibit B.
 - 18. Defendant Afni, Inc. responded by letter dated December 22, 2007 that Afni investigated the dispute and closed the account. **Exhibit C**.
 - 19. Defendant employs false representations when attempting to collect debt it claims to have purchased despite its inability to verify the debt or ascertain basic information, such as the address of the original creditor.
 - As a result of defendant's abusive, deceptive and unfair debt collection practices, 20. plaintiff has been damaged.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of the FDCPA)

- 21. Each of the above allegations is incorporated herein.
- Defendant's debt collection attempts violate various provisions of the FDCPA, 22. including but not limited to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e, 1692e(2)(A), 1692e(10), 1692g, 1692g(a)(4) and 1692g(a)(5), by falsely and deceptively attempting to collect Bell

Atlantic debt it cannot evidence, cannot prove it owns nor identify the address of the original creditor, upon timely dispute.

As a result of defendant's violations of the FDCPA, plaintiff has been damaged 24. and is entitled to statutory damages, costs and attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment as follows:

- Declaring that this action is properly maintainable as a class action and certifying a) plaintiff as Class representative;
 - b) Awarding plaintiff statutory damages;
 - c) Awarding class members the maximum statutory damages.
 - d) Awarding plaintiff costs of this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses; and
 - e) Awarding plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the FRCP, plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: January 29, 2008 Uniondale, New York

Abraham Kleinman (AK-6300)

KLEINMAN LLC 626 RexCorp Plaza

Uniondale, New York 11556-0626

Telephone (516) 522-2621 Facsimile (888) 522-1692 Bloomington, IL 61702-3427 (888)257-1585 www.afnicollections.com

COLLECTION NOTICE

This account has been acquired by our agency for collection. We believe it is in your best interest to resolve this account.

If you have any questions, please contact our office toll free at (888)257-1585 Monday through Friday 7am-9pm CST. For proper credit on your account, please write this number 021267282-02 on your payment.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion there of, this office will: obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgement and mall you a copy of such judgement or verification. If you request this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor. This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose. You have the right to inspect your credit. This letter is from a debt collector.

Please see reverse side of this notice for our Privacy Statement and credit card payment options.

To manage your account online, visit us at : www.afnicollections.com

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number #1072175

This account is for a remaining balance from the original creditor for services associated with the previous telephone number listed below.

Please retain this information for your records

Afmiline, Aport of # Botance Due	Original Creditor	Disconnected Pache #	Date
021267282-02 \$289.34	Bell Atlantic	(718)336-9031	12/5/2007

Detach along perforation and return bottom portion along with payment in the enclosed envelope. Credit card payment options are on the back of notice.

VCSq

For proper credit, please include your Afrii account # listed below on your check



AFNFI-1204F214375-QWSP-24376

Department 555 PO BOX 4115 CONCORD CA 94524



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#BWNFTZF #AFN4691376107127#

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Chanie Friedman 85 HIGHVIEW RD AIRMONT NY 10901-4017 Afni, Inc. Account #: 021267282-02
Original Creditor: Bell Atlantic
Disconnected Phone #: (718)338-9031
Balance Due: \$289.34
12/5/2007
Toll Free: (888)257-1585

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28934

PO Box 3427 Bloomington, IL 61702-3427 Idlamillandlandallandallandallandal Fxhihit R

Chanie Friedman

85 Highview Road Suffern, NY 10901

December 19, 2007

SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 309-820-2682

AFNI, Inc. Attn: DP Support 404 Brock Drive P.O. Box 3517 Bloomington, IL 61702-3517

Re: AFNI, INC. Account #021267282-02

To Whom It May Concern,

Please send me proof that you bought this debt. Please be advised that I hereby dispute the validity of this debt. Please send me written verification of this disputed debt. Please also send me the address of the original creditor.

Sincerely

Chanie Friedman

EXHIBIT C

34/29/2008 404 Brock Drive P.O. Box 3427

12/22/2007

CHANIE FRIEDMAN **85 HIGHVIEW RD** AIRMONT, NY 10901-4017

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Afni, Inc. Account #: 021267282-02

Bloomington, IL 61702-3427

Original Creditor: VERIZON NEW YORK INC.

Creditor Account #: Social Security #:

7183389031105 XXX-XX-XXXX

This letter is to inform you that we have investigated your dispute related to the referenced account. Based on the investigation this account has been closed. Afni, Inc. will take no further collection action.

In addition, if this account has been subject to credit reporting, the credit reporting agencies will be directed to remove this account from your credit report. Please note, it may take up to 60 days for the account to be removed from your record at all of the credit reporting agencies. In the interim, you may use this letter as a notice regarding the status of the account.

We apologize for the inconvenience this situation may have caused.

If you have any questions, please contact our office toll free at 1-888-827-6002 Monday - Friday 7am -9pm CST. This letter is from a debt collector.

Sincerely,

Afni, Inc.

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs license number #1072175